



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

National Agricultural Statistics Service • United States Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 1659 • Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659 • Phone (804) 771-2493

Internet: nass-va@nass.usda.gov • World Wide Web: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Contact: Steven Manheimer, State Statistician

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VIRGINIA'S BARLEY PRODUCERS HARVEST A RECORD YIELD

The September crop survey conducted by the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service indicated barley yields averaged 89 bushels per acre. This is the highest yield ever recorded for the Commonwealth next to the 84 bushels per acre recorded in 1995. The third highest yield at 82 bushels per acre occurred in 1997 and 1999. Barley production is estimated at nearly 5.8 million bushels, from 65,000 harvested acres. This year's barley production is 18 percent higher than last year.

Winter wheat producers averaged 63 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels per acre from last year but down 4 bushels per acre from the record yield harvested in 1997. The state's wheat producers in 2000 harvested the third highest yield on record. Wheat production is estimated at 12.9 million bushels harvested from 205,000 acres, 6 percent below the 1999 production.

U.S. SMALL GRAIN HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. **all wheat** production totaled 2.24 billion bushels in 2000, down 3 percent from both the last forecast and 1999. The decline from the last forecast is the result of both acreage and yield decreases. Area harvested for grain is down 2 percent from the last forecast and 1 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.1 bushels per acre, down 0.2 and 0.6 bushels from the last forecast and last season, respectively.

The Nation's **barley** production in 2000 was estimated at 320 million bushels, up 3 percent from the last forecast and 14 percent above last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 61.4 bushels, was up 2.2 bushels from 1999. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 5.21 million acres, 10 percent above a year ago.

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